

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kansas Businesses Honored For Safety Records

Topeka, Kan. – The Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) Industrial Safety and Health (ISH) division and Lt. Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D., recognized three Kansas businesses for outstanding safety records during the 66th annual ISH conference in Topeka. Battenfeld-Cincinnati USA in McPherson, East Kansas Agri-Energy in Garnett, and Community HealthCare Systems in Onaga, all members of the Safety & Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP).

American Maplan Corporation - dba Battenfeld-Cincinnati USA - has gone 13.5 years without a lost time injury, which equates to over two-million hours. Lost time accidents are non-fatal accidents that cause any loss of time from work. The company became the first SHARP site in Kansas in 2001 and is the leading supplier of materials for the production of PVC pipes.

East Kansas Agri-Energy is in its 10th year of operation and has amassed over 750,000 hours without a lost time injury. EKAE is the second ethanol plant in the nation to become a SHARP site and has been a SHARP member since 2007.

With locations in seven Kansas towns, Community HealthCare Systems has gone over 1.5 million hours without a lost day injury. Several facilities have been in SHARP since 2002 and currently there are 13 SHARP sites operated by CHS.

SHARP provides incentives and support to small, high-hazard employers to work with their employees to develop, implement and continuously improve the effectiveness of their workplace safety and health programs. Companies that have qualified for SHARP can participate in the SHARP Association, a self-governing group that serves members by networking about workplace safety and mentoring one another through idea sharing. For more information on the SHARP program go to <http://www.dol.ks.gov/Safety/SharpProgram.aspx>.

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KDOL assists in the prevention of economic insecurity through unemployment insurance and workers compensation, by providing a fair and efficient venue to exercise employer and employee rights, and by helping employers promote a safe work environment for their employees. This facilitates compliance with labor laws while enabling advancement of the economic well-being of the citizens of Kansas.

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